

What Does it Mean to Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ?

By Allen Webster

Paul gave God's greatest answer to man's greatest question by relating Christ's greatest news. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you, and your household" (Acts 16:31).

This answer has two parts:

Blessing promised: Will be saved.

Condition required: Believe on Jesus.

Controversy has surrounded Acts 16:31, but it should not. This passage is one of the great verses of the New Testament. It fits perfectly with all the gospel says of man's response to God's grace.

ACTS 16:31 CONNECTS TO THE GREAT COMMISSION.

Paul and Silas were sent out under Jesus' command to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:15–16).

The book of Acts is simply the record of the apostles fulfilling this commission. Every conversion recorded in Acts conforms to Mark 16:15–16.

For instance, Philip preached Jesus to the Ethiopian treasurer (Acts 8:35).

The eunuch asked, "Here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" (8:36).

Philip replied, "If you believe with all your heart, you may" (8:37).

He responded, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

Then "Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him" (8:38).

ACTS 16:31 CONNECTS TO ACTS 16:32.

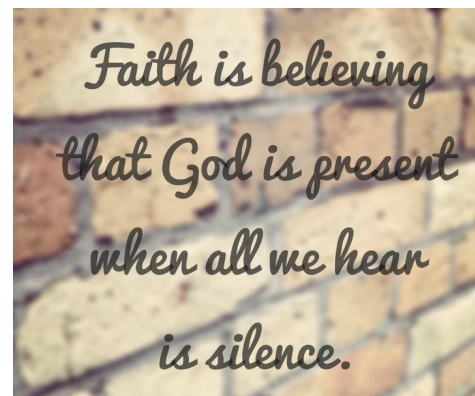
Paul's answer must be understood in its context. As an unbeliever, the jailer did not know who "the Lord Jesus Christ" was. He was like the blind man who said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" (John 9:36).

Probably, up to that night the jailer had never even heard Jesus' name. He had certainly never attended a church service or listened to a gospel sermon. He could not believe in Jesus until he learned about Him (Romans 10:17).

Paul responded with the general command to believe and then taught him who Jesus is and what He requires (Acts 16:31). "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ" was the summary, shorthand answer—the introduction, not the conclusion.

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Dale Strong has been diagnosed with colon cancer and will have surgery on June 17th. Fortunately, it has not spread.
- ◆ Bill Cockrum will have an angiogram tomorrow at West Plains.
- ◆ Barbara Stevens is having heart problems and is wearing a monitor.
- ◆ Kay and Melinda are in Seattle for a month helping Alyssa and Andrew with the baby. John and Dylan are "batching" it.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Dale Strong, Randy Johnson, Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Lloyd Ellis, Ruth Strain, Coe Hamm, Vicki Boland.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Terry Pennington, Pat McKaig, Jamie Crisp, Ricky Langston, Lisa Langston, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Wayman King, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth, Dan Harvey.
- ◆ GHCC: Virginia Hamblen, Delphia Holmes, Sonja Grisham. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Wilbern Uchtman at Brook Haven.
- ◆ Homebound: Vernon James, Steve Siebels, Mary Piepergerdes.



Acts 16:31 is not God's complete plan of salvation (no single verse is). For instance,

It does not mention repentance, yet Jesus wanted repentance preached in His name (Luke 24:46–47), which the apostles did (Acts 2:37–38; 3:19; 17:30–31).

It does not mention confessing Christ, yet Jesus wanted this preached (Matthew 10:32–33), which the apostles did (Acts 8:37; Romans 10:9–10; 1 John 4:15).

"Believe on Jesus" is condensed gospel followed by blessed commentary.
(continued next week)

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
6-1	Barbara White	6-7	Brian and Casey Hambelton (29)
6-6	Amy Stevens	6-8	John and Melinda Abraham (35)
6-15	Dylan Abraham (18)	6-8	Don and Barbara Luna (58)
6-15	Cynthia Bryant	6-10	Steve and Diana Siebels (31)
6-15	Brian Hambelton	Birthdays	
6-15	Titus Smith	6-27	Adeline Smith (7)
6-18	Dorlene Butler	6-29	Stetson Pleasant (9)
6-21	Chris Lemburg	6-29	Denise Crisp

Date	Event	Details
Today	CRC Fundraising Day	Crowleys Ridge College

Congratulations to Alyssa and Andrew Eller on the birth of Marsali Kate born on June 6. She was 7 lb. 8 oz. and 20 in. long.



Thank you to Tiffany and Jessica for planning VBS, to everyone who helped Thursday and Friday to prepare and decorate, and all the ones who helped Saturday by teaching, leading singing, preparing and serving food, making crafts, playing games, and supervising children. It takes a lot of work by many people to host VBS.

June Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

6-7 David Stevens
6-14 John Abraham
6-21 Mark Lane
6-28 Don Luna

Communion & Closing Prayer

Matt Kyle
Dana Crisp
Waylon Strong
Titus Smith

Song Leader: John Abraham
Greeters: Dana and Marsha Crisp

The Family News

June 14, 2026

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***Believing and Behaving***

Wednesday

7 p.m. Bible Classes for all ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up front

#429, *Oh to Be Like Thee*; #560, *Living by Faith*

#464, *Because He Lives*; Communion Service

#676, *Living for Jesus*

Sermon and Invitation

#904, *Have You Been to Jesus?*

#412, *Jesus, Hold My Hand*; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us